

Daily PIB Summary

23rd February

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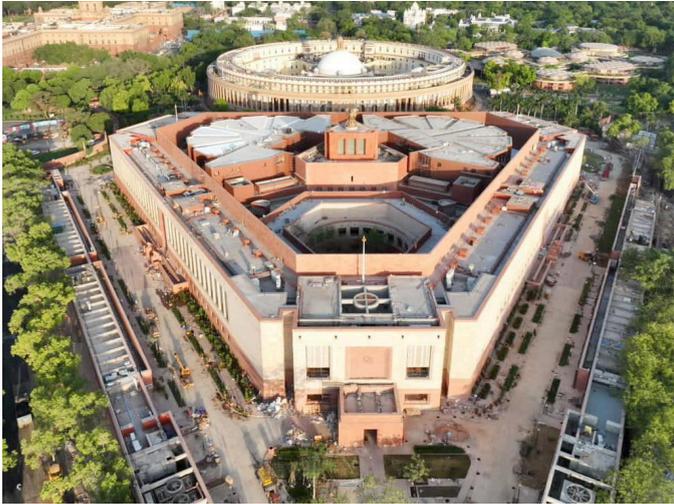
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I.LOK SABHA SPEAKER CONSTITUTES PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUPS WITH 60+ COUNTRIES TO STRENGTHEN GLOBAL DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT



- Parliamentary Friendship Groups have been established to deepen legislative cooperation with over 60 countries.
- The move institutionalizes parliamentary diplomacy beyond executive-level engagement.
- PFGs will facilitate dialogue on governance practices, legislative processes, and global challenges.
- The initiative complements India's foreign policy objectives through soft power and democratic networking.
- It strengthens India's position in multilateral parliamentary forums.
- From a governance lens, it enhances legislative participation in foreign affairs discourse.
- The development reflects India's growing global role as a major democratic power.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Parliamentary Diplomacy

Parliamentary diplomacy refers to engagement between legislators of different countries to:

- Promote democratic values
- Exchange best legislative practices
- Foster mutual understanding
- It supplements traditional executive diplomacy.

Institutional Framework

- The **Lok Sabha** Speaker plays a key role in constituting Parliamentary Friendship Groups.
- India participates in the **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**, a global organization of national parliaments.
- Parliamentary delegations represent India in bilateral and multilateral legislative forums.

Constitutional Position of Speaker

Under Article 93 of the Constitution:

- The Speaker presides over the Lok Sabha.
- Ensures orderly conduct of proceedings.
- Represents the House in its relations with external bodies.

Strategic Context

- Rising importance of people-centric diplomacy.

- Global democratic cooperation amid geopolitical shifts.
- Reinforcement of India's soft power.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Institutional Expansion:** PFGs constituted with over 60 countries.
- **Democratic Outreach:** Strengthens India's engagement with global legislatures.
- **Legislative Exchange:** Facilitates sharing of parliamentary best practices.
- **Soft Power Instrument:** Enhances India's democratic credentials internationally.
- **Multilateral Synergy:** Complements India's participation in IPU and global forums.
- **Strategic Significance:** Supports foreign policy through legislative channels.
- **Way Forward:** Regular interactions, thematic dialogues, and youth parliamentary exchanges.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Article 93:** Election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- **Article 118:** Each House may make rules for regulating its procedure.
- **Speaker's Role:** Presiding authority and administrative head of Lok Sabha Secretariat.
- **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU):** Founded in 1889; headquarters in Geneva.
- **Parliamentary Diplomacy:** Legislative engagement complementing executive diplomacy.

- **Soft Power:** Influence through culture, values, and institutions rather than coercion.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is empowered to represent the House in its external relations.
2. Parliamentary diplomacy supplements traditional executive diplomacy.
3. The Inter-Parliamentary Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

2.SHEGAON TO HOST NATIONAL AROGYA FAIR 2026: AYUSH SYSTEMS TO CONVERGE UNDER ONE ROOF



- The National Arogya Fair 2026 aims to promote India's traditional systems of

medicine through public outreach and demonstrations.

- It will provide a unified platform for practitioners, researchers, industry stakeholders and citizens.
- The event reflects the government's push toward integrative and preventive healthcare models.
- By showcasing diverse AYUSH systems, it strengthens India's medical pluralism framework.
- It supports wellness tourism and local economic activity.
- Strategically, it enhances India's global positioning in traditional medicine diplomacy.
- From a governance perspective, it deepens institutional coordination under the Ministry of AYUSH.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Ministry of AYUSH

The **Ministry of AYUSH** was established in 2014 (upgraded from the Department of AYUSH).

It oversees:

- Policy formulation
- Education standards
- Research councils
- Drug regulation in traditional medicine

AYUSH Systems Explained

AYUSH represents:

- **Ayurveda:** Ancient Indian system based on Tridosha theory (Vata, Pitta, Kapha).
- **Yoga & Naturopathy:** Holistic health and lifestyle interventions.

- **Unani:** Greco-Arabic system based on four humours.
- **Siddha:** Traditional Tamil medical system.
- **Sowa-Rigpa:** Tibetan system of medicine recognized in India.
- **Homoeopathy:** Based on "like cures like" principle.

Policy Context

- National AYUSH Mission (NAM)
- Integration of AYUSH in primary healthcare
- WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India

Healthcare Significance

- Emphasis on preventive and promotive health
- Reduces burden on allopathic infrastructure
- Enhances accessibility in rural and semi-urban areas

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Integrated Platform:** All AYUSH systems showcased under one roof.
- **Public Outreach:** Awareness campaigns and health consultations.
- **Research & Innovation:** Promotion of evidence-based validation.
- **Economic Impact:** Boost to wellness industry and local economy.
- **Institutional Convergence:** Coordination among research councils and practitioners.
- **Soft Power Diplomacy:** Promotes India as global hub of traditional medicine.
- **Way Forward:** Standardization, quality control and global accreditation.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **Ministry of AYUSH:** Established as independent ministry in 2014.
- **National AYUSH Mission (NAM):** Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Sowa-Rigpa:** Recognized officially in India in 2010.
- **Tridosha Theory:** Vata, Pitta, Kapha (Ayurveda).
- **Four Humours (Unani):** Blood, Phlegm, Yellow bile, Black bile.
- **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine:** Located in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- **Integrative Medicine:** Combining conventional and traditional practices.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC

MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of AYUSH was established as an independent ministry in 2014.
2. Sowa-Rigpa is officially recognized as one of the traditional systems of medicine in India.
3. The National AYUSH Mission is a Central Sector Scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

3. 'ZERO DEFECT, ZERO EFFECT' AT THE CORE OF INDIA'S MANUFACTURING PUSH: PIYUSH GOYAL



- The “Zero Defect, Zero Effect” (ZED) vision seeks to ensure globally competitive manufacturing with minimal environmental impact.
- “Zero Defect” refers to high-quality production standards, while “Zero Effect” emphasizes sustainability and low ecological footprint.
- The approach aligns with India’s ambition to become a developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.
- Quality enhancement is positioned as central to expanding exports and attracting global value chains.
- The initiative complements Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes and Make in India efforts.
- Strategically, it links industrial growth with environmental responsibility.
- From a governance lens, it reflects regulatory reforms, standards certification, and industry–state coordination.

- Carbon footprint and environmental standards influence trade access.
- Green manufacturing is increasingly linked to trade competitiveness.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED)

Launched under the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**, the ZED scheme promotes:

- Quality certification for MSMEs
- Adoption of global manufacturing standards
- Environmental compliance
- Resource efficiency

Make in India Initiative

Launched in 2014, Make in India aims to:

- Increase manufacturing share in GDP
- Attract FDI
- Promote innovation and skill development

Manufacturing & Economic Vision 2047

- Target: Transform India into a developed economy by 2047.
- Emphasis on industrialization, exports, and high-value production.
- Integration into Global Value Chains (GVCs).

Sustainability Imperative

- ESG compliance is gaining global importance.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Quality Focus:** "Zero Defect" ensures global-standard manufacturing.
- **Environmental Commitment:** "Zero Effect" reduces ecological impact.
- **MSME Integration:** ZED certification strengthens small enterprises.
- **Export Expansion:** Enhances competitiveness in global markets.
- **FDI Attraction:** Quality standards build investor confidence.
- **Sustainable Industrialization:** Aligns growth with environmental goals.
- **Way Forward:** Strengthening standards bodies, testing infrastructure, and green technology adoption.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **ZED Scheme:** Implemented under the Ministry of MSME.
- **Make in India:** Launched in 2014.
- **PLI Scheme:** Incentivizes incremental production in key sectors.
- **MSME Definition:** Based on investment and turnover criteria (revised 2020).
- **Global Value Chains (GVCs):** International production networks.
- **ESG:** Environmental, Social, and Governance criteria.
- **National Manufacturing Policy (2011):** Target of 25% GDP share (indicative).

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC

MCQ

Consider the following statements:

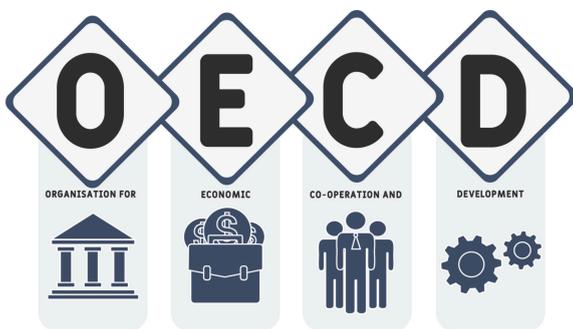
1. The Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) scheme is implemented under the Ministry of MSME.
2. "Zero Effect" in the ZED framework refers to minimizing the environmental impact of manufacturing.
3. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme primarily targets agricultural subsidies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

4.INDIA-FRANCE SIGN AMENDING PROTOCOL TO UPDATE DOUBLE TAXATION AVOIDANCE CONVENTION (DTAC)



- India and France have revised their Double Taxation Avoidance

Convention to modernize tax provisions.

- The Amending Protocol incorporates global anti-abuse measures and information-sharing standards.
- It seeks to prevent double taxation while curbing treaty shopping and base erosion practices.
- The update aligns the treaty with OECD-led reforms on transparency and anti-tax avoidance.
- The move enhances investor confidence and facilitates cross-border trade and investment.
- Strategically, it deepens economic ties between two major partners in Europe and Asia.
- From a governance standpoint, it strengthens tax compliance, revenue protection, and financial transparency.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC)

A DTAC is a bilateral agreement that ensures:

- Income is not taxed twice in two countries.
- Clear rules for taxation of dividends, royalties, interest, and capital gains.
- Exchange of information to prevent tax evasion.

India has DTACs with over 90 countries.

OECD and Global Tax Standards

The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** leads initiatives such as:

- Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) framework

- Global Minimum Corporate Tax (Pillar Two)
- Anti-abuse provisions (Principal Purpose Test)

India–France Economic Relations

France is a major investor in India across sectors such as:

- Defence
- Infrastructure
- Renewable energy
- Technology

The updated DTAC enhances fiscal predictability in bilateral trade.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Treaty Modernization:** Alignment with global anti-tax avoidance norms.
- **Anti-Abuse Measures:** Incorporation of BEPS-related safeguards.
- **Information Exchange:** Strengthened transparency mechanisms.
- **Investor Confidence:** Reduces uncertainty in cross-border taxation.
- **Revenue Protection:** Prevents treaty shopping and profit shifting.
- **Strategic Partnership:** Reinforces India–France economic cooperation.
- **Way Forward:** Harmonization with global tax reforms and digital taxation frameworks.

PRELIMS BOOSTER BOX

- **DTAC:** Prevents double taxation of income earned in two jurisdictions.

- **BEPS:** Base Erosion and Profit Shifting initiative under OECD.
- **Principal Purpose Test (PPT):** Anti-treaty abuse provision.
- **Global Minimum Tax:** 15% minimum corporate tax under OECD Pillar Two.
- **Treaty Shopping:** Routing investments to exploit favorable tax treaties.
- **Article 265 (Indian Constitution):** No tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law.

PadhAI-GENERATED UPSC MCQ

Consider the following statements:

1. A Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) ensures that the same income is not taxed twice in two different countries.
2. The OECD's BEPS initiative aims to curb base erosion and profit shifting by multinational enterprises.
3. Treaty shopping refers to the imposition of tariffs on imported goods.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)